

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02882 01 OF 02 241902Z

42

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SUBJECT: SPEECHES BY AMBASSADOR SHELTON AND PRESIDENT SOMOZA AT
HOMAGE TO SHELTON 7/23.75

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF SPEECHES DELIVERED BY AMBAS-
SADOR TURNER O. SELTON AND BY ANASTASIO OMOZA DEBAYLE, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY OF
NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR SHELTON. THE SPEECHES WERE
DELIVERED AT NICARAGUA'S NATIONAL PALACE BEFORE A LIVE AUDIENCE
ESTIMATED BY THE GON BETWEEN 4,000 AND 5,000 PEOPLE IN A TOR-
RENTIAL DOWNPOUR, AND TO A RADIO/TV AUDIENCE OF SOME HALF MILLION.

1. YOUR EXCELLENCY, GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA DEBAYLE, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA AND MRS. SOMOZA, MY FRIENDS AND
COLLEAGUES.

2. MR. PRESIDENT, WITH YOUR PERMISSION I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN MY OWN LANGUAGE BECAUSE IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO EXPRESS THE FEELINGS THAT ARE DEEP WITHIN
MH HEART ANY OTHER THAN MY OWN NATIVE TONGUE, AND I DO WANT TO
SPEAK TONIGHT FROM THE HEART OF BOTH LE LY ANDV MYSELF.

3. WE WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THE EXTRAORDINARLY
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 02882 01 OF 02 241902Z

HIGH HONOR WHICH YOUAND THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE PAID US

AND MY GOVERNMENT ON THIS OCCASION.

4. WE CAME TO NICARAGUA NEARLY 5 YEARS AGO AS STRANGERS, AND WE WERE RECEIVED AS THOUGH WE WERE MEMBERS OF THE NICARAGUAN FAMILY. AND, AS MEMBERS OF THE NICARAGUAN FAMILY WE ENJOYED A CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WHICH WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED. NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT AN EARTHQUAKE WOULD DESTROY THIS THRIVING CAPITAL CITY. ONLY THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH THAT PERIOD CAN FULLY REALIZE THE ENORMOUS DAMAGE, FOR NEVER BEFORE, AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, HAS THE CAPITAL OF A NATION BEEN DESTROYED IN A MATTER OF SECONDS. BUT, ON THAT TRAGIC EVENT IN DECEMBER 1972, A NEW MANAGUA IS RISING. A CAPITAL CITY REFLECTING THE TRUE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE WILL AND DETERMINATION OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE. THIS HAS BEEN

A DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF THE COURAGE, TENACITY, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF A PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER THAT DESERVES AND HAS RECEIVED THE ADMIRATION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPRESS IN MERE WORDS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE DURING THE LAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS. FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE IN THIS GIGANTIC EFFORT. WORKING TOGETHER, MR. PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE THAT THESE JOINT EFFORTS HAVE HELPED TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BASED ON FRIENDSHIP AND A SINCERE SENSE OF REGARD AND ADMIRATION FOR THE COURAGE OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE SET THE EXAMPLE FOR LEADERSHIP -- YOUR COURAGE, YOUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK ENDLESS HOURS, YOUR FORESIGHT WAS THE INSPIRATION THAT BROUGHT OUT ALL OF THE BEST IN THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE. I BELIEVE THAT IT CAN TRUTHFULLY BE SAID THAT THE TRAGEDY OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND ITS AFTERMATH HAS DEMONSTRATED THE STRENGTH OF THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE YEARS.

5. DURING MY STAY IN THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY, I HAVE HAD
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PAGE 03 MANAGUA 02882 01 OF 02 241902Z

THE PLEASURE OF TRAVELING FROM ITS SOUTHERN BORDERS, NORTH TO THE GULF OF FONSECA, AND I HAVE EXPLORED THE BEAUTIES OF THE WEST COAST, AND ENJOYED THE BALMY AND SALUBRIOUS CLIMATE OF CORN ISLAND. I HAVE VISITED THE SPARKLING CITY OF ESTELI AND SEEN THE INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE OF THAT COMMUNITY. I HAVE VISITED RIVAS AND JOINED WITH THE PEOPLE OF THAT CITY IN A LONG LUNCHEON AND A FIESTA WHICH I WILL NEVER FORGET. I HAVE WALKED ALONG THE SANDY BEACHES OF

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, AND I HAVE SEEN THE NATURLBEAUTIES

OF THE MOUNTAINS AROUND MATAGALPA. LESLY AND I HAVE VISITED THE HISTORIC CITIES OF GRANADA AND LEON. WE HAVE ADMIRED TOGETHER THESE TWO GREAT CENTRS OF NICARAGUAN CULTURE. WE HAVE VISITED IN THE HOMES OF NICARAGUANS OF ALMOST EVERY WALK OF LIFE, AND WE HAVE ENJOYED THE ALL-EMBRACING HOSPITALITY WHICH IS SO CHARACTERISTIC OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE.

6. ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES WHICH I HAVE HAD WAS A VISIT I MADE WITH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO WASPAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER A HURRICAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO -- AT WHICH TIME I WATCHED THE TRULY DRAMATIC AND MEANINGFUL HELP THAT WAS BROUGHT RAPIDLY TO THESE INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE -- PEOPLE WHO ARE, INDEED, BUILDING NEW FRONTIERS, NOT ONLY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, BUT IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT. I HAVE VISITED NUEVA GUINEA WHICH HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL COMMUNITY TO A BUSY TOWN, WHICH IS THE CENTRAL LOCATION FOR MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE PIONEERING FRONTIERS OF THE NEW NICARAGUA. EVERYWHERE I HAVE SEEN THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE AT WORK BUILDING HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, ROADS, MOVING YEARS AHEAD IN TERMS OF PROGRESS - ALMOST EVERY MONTH. I HAVE SEEN THE ELECTRIC LINES MOVE ACROSS THE FIELDS AND HILLS TO BRING ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER TO RURAL COMMUNITIES. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ALL OF THESE HAVE BEEN SATISFYING EXPERIENCES. I HAVE DRIVEN ALONG THE RAMA ROAD, WHICH, WITH THE HELP OF A FAVORABLY DISPOSED RIVER CONNECTS THE WESTERN PART OF YOUR COUNTRY WITH THE EASTERN COAST EVERYWHERE THERE IS ACTIVITY, INDUSTRIOUSNESS AND PROGRESS, BUT I THINK THAT THE TRUE MAGIC OF NICARAGUA IS THAT IN THIS FAST MOVING WORLD WHERE ATTITUDES TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS AT TIMES HAVE BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MANAGU 02882 01 OF 02 241902Z

PERSONALLY COLD AND IMPERSONAL, THE FAST MOVING COUNTRY OF NICARAGUA HAS RETAINED THE SPECIAL GIFT OF PERSONAL GRACIOUSNESS. IT GIVES TO A STRANGER AND TO A NEIGHBOR ALIKE, A VERY PRECIOUS WARM WELCOME WHICH IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND IN THIS WORLD TODAY. THIS IS A LAND OF MOUNTAINS, VOLCANOES, LAKES AND MANY NATURAL RESOURCES BUT MOST OF ALL IT IS A LAND OF MAGNIFICENT PEOPLE. I WISH THAT I COULD FIND THE WORDS TO ADEQUATLY DESCRIBE THE HIGH REGARD AND DEEP AFFECTION THAT BOTH LESLY AND I FEEL FOR THIS TRULY WONDERFUL COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NICARAGUA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS BECAUSE IN MANY WAYS WE ARE VERY MUCH ALIKE. WE ARE BOTH BUSY AND INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE, BUT THANKFULLY - BOTH STILL HAVE TIME FOR THE REGARD AND ESTEEM OF EACH OTHER.

7. AS LESLY AND I LEAVE YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR KINDNESS, AND FOR THE KINDNESS AND GRACIOUSNESS OF THE FIRST LADY OF THE NATION, MRS. SOMOZA. WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE MAGNIFICENT WORK OF MRS. SOMOZA IN

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02882 02 OF 02 242039Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SUSIA WASHDC PRIORITY 705

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7554

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAGUA 2882

THE MONTHS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE WHEN SHE SET AN EXAMPLE TRULY TO BE EMULATED - OF A GRACIOUS LADY INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF THE LESS FORTUNATE AND ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN WHO ARE THE FUTURE OF THE NATION.

8. LESLY AND I WANT YOU BOTH TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR HEARTFELT GOOD WISHES AND THAT WE EXTEND TO YOU AND THROUGH YOU - TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA OUR SINCEREST PRAYERS THAT GOOD FORTUNE WILL CONTINUE TO BE WITH YOU AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AS IT MOVES FORWARD INTO AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT WHEN THE SANDS OF YOUR BEACHES GET INTO YOUR SHOES, YOU ARE DESTINED TO RETURN. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY -- THAT IF YOU HAVE EVER FELT THE WARM ABRAZO (EMBRACE) OF THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA, YOU HAVE THEN LOST A PART OF YOUR HEART TO NICARAGUA -- AND YOU WILL SURELY BE DESTINED TO RETURN.

9. TONIGHT, IS, INDEED, AN UNFORGETTABLE OCCASION FOR LESLY AND MYSELF. WE WILL CARRY WITH US FOREVER THE

EXPRESSIONS OF AFFECTION AND REGARD WHICH WE HAVE HEARD
TONIGHT. THIS OCCASION, MR. PRESIDENT, WHICH YOU AND THE
PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE GIVEN US IN THIS HISTORIC NATIONAL
PALACE, WILL REMAIN INDELIBLY IMPRESSED UPON OUR MEMORIES.
WE WILL REMEMBER THE BEAUTY OF YOUR COUNTRY, THE MAGNIFICENCE
OF YOUR PEOPLE, BUT MOST OF ALL, - WE WILL REMEMBER THE
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 02882 02 OF 02 242039Z

TIES OF FRIENDSHIP THAT BIND THE UNITED STATES AND NICARAGUA
TOGETHER -- A FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSENESS THAT IS BASED ON
MUTUAL RESPECT, ADMIRATION AND REGARD FOR THOSE ASPIRATIONS
OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT WHICH ARE SHARED BY BOTH YOUR COUNTRY
AND MINE. IN THE MEANTIME, MR. PRESIDENT, ALLOW ME TO SAY
IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE -- (FOLLOWING DELIVERD IN SPANISH)

10. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO FIND ADEQUATE WORDS TO EXPRESS
THE DEEP APPRECIATION THAT BOTH LESLY AND MYSELF HAVE FOR
YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA FOR
THIS HONOR.

11. I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT THE GREATEST PLEASURE AND
PRIVILEGE OF OUR LIVES HAS BEEN HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY OF
BEING A PART OF THE LIFE AND HISTORY OF NICARAGUA. THE
COURAGE OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE IS AN INSPIRATION THAT WILL
ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED.

12. I WANT TO TO THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED
WIFE ON BEHALF OF LESLY AND MYSELF, FOR ALL THE COURTESY AND
GOODNESS THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN US; AND THROUGH YOU, MR.
PRESIDENT, I WISH TO EXTEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS AND AN
EMBRACE TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS GLORIOUS COUNTRY.

SEEING YOU SOON. (HASTA PRONTO)

13. (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT SOMOZ'S)

WHEN CORDIAL RELATIONS EXIST BETWEEN CIVILIZED PEOPLE,
WHEN, MOREOVER, THESE PEOPLE ARE LINKED BY THE COMMON BELIEF
THAT THERE EXISTS A SUPREME POLER WHO RULES THE UNIVERSE,
THEN THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARISE FROM THAT
COMMON BACKGROUND
EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS TO BIND THEM TOGETHER, WHO REAFFIRM THE
EXISTENCE OF THAT FRIENDSHIP, WHO WORK TO STRENGTHEN
UNDERSTANDING AND WHO RENLECT THE BELIEFS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
COUNTRIES WHICH ARE THUSLY LINKED.

14. THE ACTIVITIES ON AMBASSADORS ARE SUBJECT TO RIGID
PROTOCOL, AND THE GOOD WORKS OF A FOREIGN MISSION ARE MEASURED
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PAGE 03 MANAGU 02882 02 OF 02 242039Z

BY THE CLOSENESS REACHED BY THE AMBASSADOR IN HIS ACTIVITIES
WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH HE IS ACCREDITED.

15. MANY YEARS AGO THERE ARRIVED AN AMBASSADOR, MUCH LIKE ANY
AMBASSADOR WHO ARRIVED BEFORE HIM, LIKE THOSE WHO WILL ARIVE
AFTER, FROM A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
TO ANOTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRY, OURS. HIS MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL.
THE WORK THAT HE HAD TO CARRY OUT BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT TO
WHICH HE WAS ACCREDITED WAS CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER.

16. MANY AMBASSADORS FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN
ACCREDITED TO OUR GOVERNMENT.

17. WE WON'T JUDGE THEIR BEHAVIOR, BUT WE CAN SAY THAT THEY
CARRIED OUT THE WORK THAT THEIR MISSION REQUIRED OF THEM, IN
THEIR ROLES AS AMBASSADORS.

18. BUT WE ARE CONCERNED
TODAY WITH SOMETHING ELSE: THE HUMAN
CONDITION FAR FROM THE RESTRICTIONS OF RIGID PROTOCOL. WE ARE
CONCERNED WITH A MAN TO WHOM I HAVE THE HIGH HONOR OF PAYING
TRIBUTE IN THE NAME OF A PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA, A
PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO TREAT A PERSON WHO HAS DONE THEM A FAVOR.

19. THE 23RD OF DECEMBER 1972, WE SUFFERED THE CRUELEST
EARTHQUAKE YET SUFFERED BY A PEOPLE, AND THAT SAME YEAR ON
DECEMBER IN THE EARLY HOURS, THERE WAS NICARAGUAN WHO,
FORGETTING HIS OWN SUFFERING, RUSHED THE MESSAGE THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD THROUGH HIS RADIO, TO HELP A PEOPLE CUT DOWN INTO
THE FARTHEST
DEPTHS OF TRAGEDY. AND THIS MAN, THIS NEW
NICARAGUAN, WAS A DIPLOMAT, WHO, ROLLING UP HIS SLEEVES,
HELPED TO HEAL THE SICK AND HE WAS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TURNER B. SHELTON. DAY AFTER DAY,
WITH NO SIGN OF FATIGUE HE WENT ABOUT ON HIS CHRISTIAN MISSION
-EMINENTLY HUMANITARIAN-AND HE WON THE RECOGNITION OF THE
PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA. I HOPE MY WORDS THIS EVENING WILL
REFLECT HIS NOBLE CHARACTER, HIS DEXTION, BY THANKING HIM
IN THIS WAY BEFORE ALL OF YOU ASSEMBLED HERE.

20. WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SAY FAREWELL TO DIPLOMATS AT
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PAGE 04 MANAGU 02882 02 OF 02 242039Z

PROTOCOLARY RECEPTIONS. THE ELEGANT SALONS OF THE CHANCELLERY
ABOUND WITH THE CUSTOMARY COURTESIES. SILVER PLATTERS ARE

PASSED AND THE GLITTER OF THE GOLD OF DECORATIONS IS SEEN ON ALL SIDES. THAT'S THE WAY ONE GOVERNMENT SAYS FAREWELL TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER...BUT WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH THAT TONIGHT. LET THE GOVERNMENT SAY FAREWELL TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

21. I STAND BEFORE YOU TONIGHT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, A WORKING GROUP WHO SACRIFICED AND LABORED FROM THE BEGINNING IN THE VORTEX (EYE) OF THE TRAGEDY. THIS COMMITTEE REPRESENTS THE NATION, NOT THE STATE, WITNESS THE NATIONAL PALACE, THE MOST AUTHENTIC BUILDING THAT NICARAGUA HAS - THE SEAT OF HER LAWFUL REPRESENTATIVES - WHICH OUR FRIEND TURNER B. SHELTON EARNED WITH HIS SPONTANEOUS PARTICIPATION DURING OUR SUFFERING THE MOST AUTHENTIC CHARGER OF NICARAGUAN CITIZENSHIP ANY MAN COULD ASK FOR.

22. I KNOW THAT THIS TRANSCENDENTAL ACT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED UNUSUAL AND EVEN INAPPROPRIATE. BUT UNUSUAL, INAPPROPRIATE, TERRIBLE WAS THE TRAGEDY SUFFERED BY OUR PEOPLE ON THAT AWFUL DATE. AND ALSO UNUSUAL, EXTRAORDINARY, VEHEMENT AND EXHAUSTING--ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DIPLOMATIC DUTY THE LABOR, THE AID, THE UNDERSTANDING AND THE SOLIDARITY WITH US THAT OUR FRIEND TURNER B. SHELTON DEMONSTRATED TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA.

23. MAYBE THIS IS A PRECEDENT. I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE THE PRECEDENT BECAUSE THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WITH GREAT NOBILITY SHOWED THEIR LOVE FOR OUR PEOPLE IN THEIR HOUR OF TRAGEDY.

24. MY PERSONAL FEELINGS WILL NOT ENTER INTO THIS ACT TONIGHT. I WILL GUARD MY PERSONAL FEELINGS JEALOUSLY. IT WILL GO WITH MR. AND MRS. SHELTON WHEREVER THEY MAY TRAVEL TO CONSTANTLY REMIND THEM OF WHAT THEY DESERVE FROM THE NOBLE, BRAVE, GREAT AND LONG-SUFFERING NICARAGUA. IT IS YOURS BECAUSE YOU HAVE WON IT. "AND YOU HAVE WON A PEOPLE EVEN MORE FRIENDLY THAN BEFORE, FOR THE UNITED STATES. (UNQUOTE)
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